

## **This I Believe**

No one can tell us what to say, and what not to say. I believe that every single human being has the right to voice their own opinions freely. Whoever the person is, no matter how old or young the person is, or how powerful and smart the person is, I don't think it makes a difference, we all have the right to say what we feel and think. Freedom of speech is something every person, as a human being, deserves.

We should be able to say whatever we want, to voice out what we truly think and feel, but of course, while being sensitive about others' feelings at the same time. But regardless whether we are parent or child, teacher or student or even richer or poorer, we deserve that right to voice our opinions and we shouldn't be stopped by someone from being able to speak freely.

As a child, what I say is hardly ever taken seriously by my parents.

Just the other day, I was being reprimanded by my mother for something that was not even done by me. Even though it was only a small matter, naturally I got frustrated for being wrongly accused, and I started to raise my voice a little and tried to explain. But what did I get in return instead? A pinch on the cheek and a warning for me not to be rude. In the end I did not even get the chance to explain myself properly!

Whenever I want to do something, but my parents do not allow me to and instead, want me to do something else, I would try to protest, only to be scolded and told not to be 'rebellious' and that I can do whatever I want only when I move out of the house and earn my own money.

In the end I hardly ever get to voice my own thoughts and opinions. Now, whenever I meet with such situations like the above, I would just keep quiet, which sometimes provokes my parents even more. But what am I supposed to do?

It is because of such situations that make some people afraid to show their point of view, and misunderstandings and arguments may arise.

For us to communicate effectively, the other party must be willing to listen first, and in most cases, they do not want to listen to what we say, thinking that we are immature or too young to understand, thinking that they are always right and knows what is best, and does not even give us a chance to speak and show our views.

Every single human being has the right to voice their opinions freely, no one, no matter how powerful or wise, can stop us from saying what we truly feel. This, I believe.